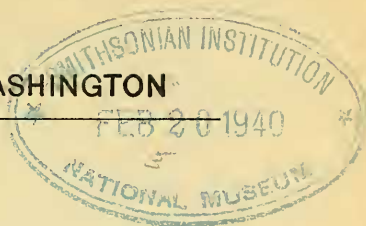


PROCEEDINGS
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THE STATUS OF DU BUS' TYPE OF *GRANATELLUS*
VENUSTUS.

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At Brussels in July, 1939, I was engaged in the study of the types of North American birds housed in the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle. A considerable amount of material of more than ordinary interest was discovered since Brussels was the center of activity for Du Bus, for a time Bonaparte, and later, Dubois, all of whom were actively interested in American birds. This collection (so far as concerns Americana) does not seem to have been critically examined by any modern ornithologist.

Among the types examined was that of *Granatellus venustus*, known originally from Plate 24 of Du Bus' "Esquisses Ornithologiques." The plate, so far as is known, had no accompanying text but was nevertheless a duly published and properly captioned part of the 5th livraison (plates 21-25) issued some time in 1849. It was erroneously cited by Bonaparte (*Consp. Avium*, 1, 1850, 312) as number 34, an error which was repeated by Sclater (*P. Z. S. Lond.*, 1864, 607) and by others since that time, although Ridgway (*Birds No. and Mid. Amer.*, 2, 1902, 697) cites it correctly. Incidentally, other names in the above cited work of Du Bus which are now accredited to Bonaparte (including of course the generic name of *Granatellus*) properly belong to the former author, but full data on this matter will be presented in a report on the Brussels types, now in nearly completed manuscript.

Du Bus' type of *Granatellus venustus* is No. 8210 of the Brussels Museum. It is an adult male, mounted on a small, conventional, bar perch and is in good condition; the plumage is only slightly abraded as though the bird had been taken in winter or early spring. The only locality given on the stand or in the old register is "Mexique." The original source is not indicated, although it was possibly acquired from Parzudaki or the Verreaux Brothers, both of which dealers seem to have transmitted many specimens to Du Bus and the Brussels Museum at this period. It is the only example

FEB 17 1940

of the species which has ever been in the collection, so far as could be determined, and since it matches the plate in detail its authenticity can scarcely be questioned.

The characters are at variance with the definition of the nominate race as generally conceived and described in detail by Ridgway. The auriculars are plumbeous (save on the anterior portion) and are concolorous with the sides of the neck instead of being wholly black and sharply defined; the median underparts are more rosy (less vermillion) and the upper parts are somewhat duller and less bluish plumbeous. Some of these items might be attributed to a post-mortem change occasioned by 90 years, but careful comparison of specimen with plate discloses no significant differences. Measurements of the type are: wing, 59; tail, 65; exposed culmen, 13.0; depth of bill at base, 5.4; width at nostril, 4.2; tarsus, 20.0; middle toe minus claw, 11.1 mm. Parenthetically, it may be stated that Sclater (*sup. cit.*, pl. xxxvii) states that his figure is an exact copy of Du Bus' plate, which is true save that the blue of the upper parts is slightly brighter than in the original.

As a restricted type locality for *venustus*, I suggest Comitán, Chiapas. This is indicated by an adult male in the British Museum (98.12.1.827) taken at that place by W. B. Richardson on April 20, 1897. It is badly mutilated and most of the head characters are destroyed; such as remain, however, together with the darker dorsal coloration and more rosy underparts seem to be very close to the type.

It remains to provide a name for the better known race of the west coast of Mexico, which is here called

***Granatellus venustus melanotis*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Male adult, 92.4.20.1589, Brit. Mus.; San Blas, Tepic [Nayarit], Mexico, May 1, 1889; collected by W. B. Richardson.

Subspecific characters.—Adult males similar to *Granatellus venustus venustus* Du Bus of Chiapas but auriculars wholly black; sides of body paler; median under parts more vermillion (less rosy); upper parts slightly lighter and more bluish plumbeous.

Range.—Southern Sinaloa south to Guerrero. A single female from Santa Efigenia, Oaxaca (143353 Biol. Surv.) is darker and more buffy and the throat is less purely white than more northern specimens. It perhaps represents *venustus*, but in the absence of females of that race and also of males from Oaxaca, I do not place it racially at this time.